An adjournment motion for purposes of debate.

President.—There is a motion for adjournment from Mr. C. A. Ouseph. I have just been considering that question. This is a matter in regard to which a resolution was proposed to be moved, and it has been disallowed.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—May I make the distinction between these two, the health of His Highness and to issue bulletins regarding the health of His Highness. This motion has nothing to do with the health of His Highness. The adjournment motion wants to call attention to the Government's omission to give news to the public regarding His Highness' health, when newspapers publish various rumours regarding His Highness' health. The attention is directed to the omission of the Government to give news to the people regarding His Highness' health, and which is put in in another form by the word "reticence".

President.—When you refer to the question of authorities, messages were published by the Associated Press, both from this State and from Delhi. Did you not see all these things?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Never about the health of His Highness.

President.—About abdication?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—There was an A. P. I. message in regard to that.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—I wish to raise a point of order. This is a subject removed from the cognizance of the Council.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I say "it is not the reticence of the Government" regarding the health of His Highness the Maharaja. I fully appreciate the Hon'ble Member's agreement with regard to this section. That section says that it shall not be lawful for the Legislative Council to consider and enact any measure relating to or affecting the Ruling Family of Cochin. This motion relates to a matter quite different from that. Here there is only one relationship. We shall not discuss any matter relating to the Ruling Family of Cochin. What I want is an adjournment motion regarding the omission of the Government in not publishing a matter relating to the health of His Highness, when newspapers have published various rumours regarding His Highness' health.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—As put forward by the Hon'ble Member for Jenmies, section 11 does not apply to this. It refers only to enactments.

President.—But Rule 34 (a) has reference to this motion,

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Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon.—Is it the duty of the Government to contradict every statement we find in the newspapers?

President.—I would just think over the matter and give my ruling in the course of the day.

The Bill to amend the Cochin Court of Wards Regulation.

President.—Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon, you opposed the motion that the Bill to amend the Cochin Court of Wards Regulation be passed at the next Friday's meeting.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Yes, Sir, I opposed.

President.—Do you want to say anything in opposition?

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Yes, Sir. It would have been sufficiently plain to you that the non-official side of this House is considerably opposed to that amending Bill, had you been present here last afternoon.

President.—Of course, I know, in regard to that particular point, whether the Bill is to come into force at once or on the 1st of Chingam 1103, the House was divided, and the Deputy President passed the amendment by giving his independent vote. So the Bill is to come into force at once. That is the nature of the thing, so far as I read the papers.

Mr. N Padmanabha Menon.—From that it is plain that this House does not want the Bill to be passed at once.

President.—More or less, the opinion of the House is divided.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—I am not enumerating all the reasons that have been advanced in the previous discussions, and so, in one or two sentences, I shall summarise them. It would be highly injudicious to transfer the power of execution from the Civil Courts to the executive officers. The second is that a very strong case has been made out that it is through want of proper consideration that the Government assumed management of the estate, which strictly ought to go to the Insolvency Court and not to the Court of Wards. If we pass this Amendment Bill, the result will be that the creditors in Cochin will not get anything, whereas the creditors in Travancore and British India will realise their portion of the debt.

President.—That is, by proceeding against Travancore and British property?

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Yes, Sir. The extreme negligence (I may be excused for so saying) of the Court of Wards in not valuing the estate till now, even though we pressed

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